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Identical letters dated 12 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 11 June 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 1 to 8 June 2000 they carried out 242 sorties, 82 of them from Saudi Arabia, 48 from Kuwait and 112 from Turkey. He goes on to call for your intervention with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt their aggression and to respect the norms of international law and the sovereignty of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-48146 (E) 150600 160600

Annex to the identical letters dated 12 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 242 sorties in the period from 1 to 8 June 2000, 82 of them from Saudi Arabia, 48 from Kuwait and 112 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 112 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1015 hours on 1 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Zakho, Ayn Zalah, Rawanduz, Baibo, Aqrah, Dukan, Qal'at Dizah and Sinjar areas. They released seven heat flares in the Fayidah, Badriyah and Saddam dam areas north of Mosul city. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1315 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1035 hours on 4 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Zakho, Rawanduz and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1017 hours on 5 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Zakho and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1320 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1000 hours on 6 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Zakho, Ayn Zalah, Baibo and Aqrah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1310 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1130 hours on 7 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Mosul, Zakho, Rawanduz,

Baibo, Aqrah and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1405 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1013 hours on 8 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Zakho, Baibo, Ayn Zalah and Aqrah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1320 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 130 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 0730 hours on 2 June 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 12 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Diwaniyah, Najaf and Jalibah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0845 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0825 hours on 3 June 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 14 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Najaf, Basrah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Lasaf, Jalibah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Taqtaqanah, Nukhayb, Afak, Hayy and Shatrah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0940 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0945 hours on 4 June 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Salih, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Basrah, Taqtaqanah and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1230 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0725 hours on 5 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 42 missions, 28 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Salman, Najaf, Rifa'i, Lasaf and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0840 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0925 hours on 6 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Salman, Kut, Taqtaqanah, Nu`maniyah, Razzazah, Karbala' and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1035 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 0725 hours on 8 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Salman, Rifa`i, Lasaf, Shinafiyah, Qal`at Sukkar, Ashbajah, Qal`at Salih and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1300 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against Iraqi civilian targets and installations, urges the Security Council to perform the duties assigned to it, as exemplified by the maintenance of international peace and security, by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, bring to a definitive end and refrain from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq